

Docket No. 70669

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Qi et al.  
Application No.: 09/976,674  
Filed: October 12, 2001  
Title: **NOVEL SERINE  
PROTEASE GENES  
RELATED TO DPPIV**  
Group Art. Unit: 1652  
Examiner: Walicka, Malgorzata A.

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the first Office Action on the merits mailed January 28, 2003, to which a shortened statutory period for response is being contemporaneously extended to expire on May 28, 2003, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks: